

**ATSUSHI SUZUMI** CREATOR OF *VERUS VS. VIRUS*



HARIDAMA  
MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

ATSUSHI  
SUZUMI

Kodansha Books

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Hokuyo and Harika are a little unusual—and not just because they're sorcery students. They're Obsidians, wizards who must use enchanted swords to help them cast spells. Their fellow students think Obsidians are inferior to "normal" wizards. But Hokuyo and Harika have something that their cohorts don't: the power of friendship!

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# HARIDAMA

## MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

**ATSUSHI SUZUMI**

Translated and adapted by Kaya Laterman

Lettered by Foltz Design



DEL  
REY

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# Contents

**Honorifics Explained, page v**

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## HARIDAMA: MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

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FIRST PERIOD  
**THE ORSIDIAN COMPLEX**  
page 1

SECOND PERIOD  
**GAME ON!**  
page 47

THIRD PERIOD  
**ADVENTURE IN THE MOONLIGHT**  
page 83

FOURTH PERIOD  
**A PATH OF MY OWN**  
page 121

FIFTH PERIOD  
**THE PLEDGE AND MOVING ON**  
page 157

**Afterword, page 164**

**About the Creator, page 166**

**Translation Notes, page 167**

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## Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

- san:** This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.
- sama:** This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.
- dono:** This comes from the word "dono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.
- kun:** This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

THEY  
MATCH,  
KOKUYO!

WHO  
CARES  
IF THEY  
MATCH?

BUT  
I LOVE MY  
OBSIDIAN!

HARIKI!

YOU DO  
KNOW THAT  
OBSIDIAN IS  
A SIGN OF  
WEAKNESS  
FOR  
SORCERERS, RIGHT?

IT'S SO  
SHINY AND  
PRETTY.

**-chan:**

This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish outness.

**Bozu:**

This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirly."

**Sempai/**

**Senpai:**

This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

**Kohai:**

This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

**Sensei:**

Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

**-[blank]:**

This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.



YIN.

PRESSURE  
!!

YANG.

STUDENT, SERIES MAGIC  
CRAM SCHOOL  
SORCERER'S APPRENTICE

**KOKUYO**

ONE CAN  
OBTAIN  
ULTIMATE  
POWER BY  
MANIPULATING  
THESE FORCES,  
AND BY  
TRAPPING INTO  
THE "PRESSURE  
SOURCE."

YANG

YIN

IN THIS  
UNIVERSE,  
THERE ARE  
OPPOSING  
FORCES  
CALLED THE  
YIN AND THE  
YANG.

THOSE WHO  
HAVE THE  
ABILITY TO USE  
THIS POWER TO  
WARD OFF THE  
EVIL SPIRITS  
THAT LURK IN  
THE WORLD...

...ARE CALLED  
SORCERERS.

# HARIDAMA: MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

**ATSUSHI SUZUMI**

**FIRST PERIOD: THE OBSIDIAN COMPLEX**



I FEEL LIKE  
YOU'RE  
NOT EVEN  
TRYING.

REALLY?

—



ARE YOU  
ALWAYS  
GOING TO  
RELY ON THE  
OBSCURE  
AND YOUR  
SMOOP?

IF YOU CAN'T  
USE YOUR  
MAGIC...



AREN'T  
YOU TWO  
THE SAME  
FOLK,  
KOKKOP?

...JUST  
TOOK THE  
THIRD-  
LEVEL  
"SOCIETY  
EXTRA."

BY THE WAY,  
I HEARD THAT  
NINOM-  
KUN FROM  
THE TORME  
MAGIC CDM  
SCHOOL...

ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?  
NOW  
WATCH  
THIS.

PRINCIPAL, SEKIEI  
MAGIC CDM SCHOOL  
TOP-RANKING CONCERN

**SEKIEI**

USE ALL YOUR  
STRENGTH!  
IMAGINE YOU  
ARE TYING UP  
THE PRESSURE  
POINTS AT  
BOTH ENDS.

PUSH THE  
ENERGY  
FROM THE  
YIN TO THE  
YANG!!

YOU'RE NOT  
OVERCOMING  
THE ROCK'S  
PRESSURE,  
KOKKOP.

HAPP  
IT WON'T  
BREAK

POKE

FIRST,  
THROW  
YOUR YIN  
AND YANG  
TOWARD  
THE TARGET.

OR SNAP THE  
ENTRY POINT  
AND EXIT TO THE  
ENTIRE ENERGY  
SOURCE.

YOU TOOK  
OFF YOUR  
OBSDOWN.

SORRY  
ABOUT  
THAT.

ALL HAVE THE  
SAME YIN  
AND YANG  
POWER.



EVERYONE  
ON THIS  
EARTH,  
INCLUDING  
HUMAN.

YOU CAN CHANGE A  
LOT OF DAMAGE  
BY TEMPORARILY  
INFLECTING THE YIN  
AND YANG FORCE  
INTO YOUR ENEMY.



THERE IS A  
"METHOD" OF  
TRANSFERRING  
POWER BETWEEN  
THE YIN  
(POSITIVE)  
AND THE YANG  
(NEGATIVE).



THE  
OBSDOWN  
IS USED TO  
CORRECT  
THEIR FLOW

WHEN A  
SORCERER  
HITS ONLY  
ONE OF THE  
FORCES...

THIS IS  
WHERE THE  
OBSDOWN  
IS USEFUL.



HOWEVER,  
THERE ARE  
THOSE WHO  
ARE BORN  
WITH EITHER  
THE YIN OR  
THE YANG,  
AND NOT  
BOTH.

I KNOW  
I HAVE AN  
OBSDOWN. I'M  
A BOTTOM-OF-  
THE-BARREL  
STUDENT WITH  
NO TALENT.

DON'T  
COMPARE  
ME WITH  
SOMEONE  
WHO HAS  
THE POWER.

IF YOU  
CONTINUE  
TO...

STOP  
HASSLING  
ME, SEKIE!

KONGYO.



DON'T  
AIM  
FOR MY  
HEAD!

YANG.

YIN.

WH...  
WHAT,  
SEKIE!

DIDN'T  
I TELL  
YOU TO  
CALL ME  
"SENSEI"  
DURING  
CLASS?



YOU.

PRESSURE  
!!





WHO SAYS  
OBSERVING  
IS WEAK?

WHAT  
THE...  
!?

AREN'T YOU  
JUST TALKING  
ABOUT YOUR  
GIGA KOKORO?

AND, BECAUSE  
OF THEIR LIMITED  
POWERS, WE  
SELDOM CALLED  
TO BATTLE.

THE OTHER  
SORCERORS  
CALL THOSE  
SORCERORS  
"OBSERVING."

IN OTHER  
WORDS, I'M  
NOT MEANT  
TO BE A  
SORCERER.

YOU  
STOPPED  
THE  
FORCE...

BY  
REMOVING  
THE  
OBSERVING.

I SEE THAT  
YOUR MIND  
WORKS  
WELL WHEN  
YOU WANT  
TO CHEAT.

NO MATTER  
HOW MUCH  
AN OBSERVING  
TIE-IN, THERE'S  
NO WAY WE  
CAN BE MORE  
POWERFUL  
THAN THOSE  
WITH BOTH  
FORCES...

?

IT'S A  
SHAME TO  
HEAR SUCH  
NONSENSE.

!?

WHAT?  
P?

A  
SORCERER.

HARIKA,  
A SOR-  
CERER?

HARIKA-SH...  
I MEAN, HARIKA  
ALWAYS WANTED  
TO LIVE UP TO  
THE WISHES OF  
MY MOTHER, OR  
HER FATHER AND  
BECOME...

OUCH!

THERE'S  
NO WAY  
SHE CAN...

HA HA HA HA  
BESIDES THE  
FACT THAT  
WE'RE ALSO  
AN ORIGIN, SHE'S ALSO  
THE BIGGEST CRYBABY!

WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING  
HERE? I  
THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
GOING TO AN  
ELL-OR'S  
SCHOOL IN  
ANOTHER  
COUNTRY?

AND YOUR  
ORIGIN  
SWORD...

HA...  
HARIKA  
!?

IF I HAD KNOWN  
YOU WERE  
RETURNING,  
I WOULD HAVE  
PICKED YOU UP

STILLY HONORED  
君様

I'M  
SHOCKED,  
MISS  
HARIKA

YOU CAN  
CALL ME  
HARIKA,  
HAKU-  
GENDEL

I KNOW  
I AM THE  
DAUGHTER  
OF THE  
FOUNDER  
HEAD OF THE  
SCHOOL.

BUT  
STARTING  
TODAY, I'M  
JUST A  
REGULAR  
STUDENT.

STUDENT SERIES  
MAGIC CRAFT SCHOOL  
SINCERELY'S APPRENTICE

**HARIKA**

WHO  
ARE YOU  
CALLING A  
CRYBABY?

UH...

SURPRISED,  
KOKUYO?

HUP?

YOU DON'T  
SEE SOME-  
ONE FOR A  
WHILE AND  
THEY...



WHY DON'T  
I TAKE ON  
THE BOTH OF  
YOU?

IF YOU WANT  
TO FIGHT SO  
MUCH...



THAT'S  
OKAY...

NO...



SO YOU  
SEE...



HEHE  
YOU HAVE NO  
RIGHT TO  
SAY SUCH  
THINGS  
ABOUT  
ME.

ESPECIALLY  
SINCE YOU'RE  
THE COMBO  
WHO TAKES OFF  
HIS ORIGIN  
BEFORE  
GETTING HIT.

WHATEVER,  
YOU'RE THE  
ONE WHO  
STARTED  
THIS!!

WHAT THE  
HELL ARE  
YOU DOING  
THAT WAS  
DANGEROUS!!



OH, I KNOW.  
YOU'RE LIKE  
A WEAK DOG  
WITH A LOUD  
GROWL.



YIN

YANG

SO YOU  
WANT TO  
SEE MY  
POWERS,  
EH?

STOP  
FIGHTING  
YOU JUST  
REUNTED...

CALM  
DOWN  
YOU TWO.

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU JUST  
SAID  
THAT TO  
SOMEONE  
OLDER.

I SURE  
DO. LET  
ME SEE!!

WHAT?  
WE'RE THE  
SAME AGE,  
DUMBIE.





HE HAS  
NO SENSE  
OF  
DIRECTION

OK,  
BROTHER.



HEY, YOU'RE  
WALKING  
TOWARD  
THE  
FOREVE.



I DON'T  
KNOW  
WHY I  
CARE.

WHY ARE  
YOU  
SAYING  
THAT?



HEY, IT'S THE  
OBSIDIANS!



PLUS YOU  
GUYS GO  
TO THIS  
CEREBY  
MAGIC CRYM  
SCHOOL.

DON'T COME  
TOO CLOSE.  
WE MIGHT  
GET WERE,  
TOO.

I HEAR YOU  
CAN'T CAST  
RAY GRILL  
WITHOUT THIS.



JUST  
WEE.

CLICK

DON'T CRY  
HIBIKU.

YOU'LL  
STAY WERE  
THAT WERE

LIV...



AND YOU  
FORGOT  
THIS.

YOU'RE  
ALREADY  
PLAYING  
HOOKY?



I SAID I  
DON'T  
WANT IT!

YOU LIE!  
THERE'S NO  
WAY YOU  
CAN DO  
THAT HERE,  
TAKE IT.

HASH  
IF I REALLY  
PUT MY MIND  
TO IT,  
I DON'T NEED  
THAT SWORD  
TO CAST  
SPELLS.

WHAT?



IT  
DOESN'T  
WORK IF  
IT'S NOT  
IN THE  
SWORD!

OH, WHAT?  
EVER, I'VE  
GOT MY  
OBSIDIAN.



I'LL LOOK  
LIKE A BAD  
DORK IF I  
HOLD THAT.

ONLY  
WISDOMS  
HAVE  
WEAPONS.



OH,  
THEN...

DO WHAT-  
EVER YOU  
WANT.





WE'RE  
GOING  
TO GO  
SAVE  
HARIKA.

GO  
GET THE  
SPARE  
SWORD.  
NOW.

THAT'S  
Ru!!

THE ONLY  
THING I  
COULD DO  
WAS RUN.

I  
COULDN'T  
DO ANY-  
THING...

I DIDN'T  
KNOW.

RUN  
AWAY!!!

I DIDN'T KNOW I DIDN'T HAVE ANY POWERS.

KOKUYO.

I DIDN'T KNOW IT WOULD BE SO FRUSTRATING  
TO BE POWERLESS.

...I'S ONLY  
ATTAINED  
WHEN YOU  
DISCOVER  
YOUR OWN  
WEAKNESS.

TRUE  
STRENGTH...





THE MONSTER IS USING HIS POWERS TO HIS ADVANTAGE.

WROOOOT

IF WE MESS UP SHE'LL ONLY BE IN GREATER DANGER.



HARIKA...!!

SHOOO... WHAT WILL WE DO NOW?

HE'S ATTACKING US THE MINUTE WE STEP INTO HIS FORCE FIELD.



IF ONLY I WAS STRONGER...

LET'S TRY THROWING ON A PROTECTIVE FORCE FIELD AND PULL THE GIRL OUT.

NO, THEN THE GIRL'S POWER WILL ALL BE SUCKED OUT!

BUT WHAT OTHER WAY CAN BE...



HE'S...

HE'S GOTTEN BIGGER THAN BEFORE?!



HARIKA I?



YEAH!

LET'S JUST GET THE GIRL.



PRESSURE!!!

YIN.

YANG.

BUT IF HE'S  
ATTACKED  
IN MID-AIR,  
THEN...

!P

HE'S  
FLYING  
!P

HE'S USING  
THE FORCE THAT  
BLEW UP THE  
ROCK TO  
PROPEL  
HIMSELF!P



!!

THAT'S  
IT!

TO GET TO  
THE GULF IS  
TO...

THE ONLY WAY  
WE CAN GET  
THROUGH THE  
SHIELD...

SHOOT.  
HVN'T THERE  
ANYTHING  
ELSE WE CAN  
DO?



THIS IS  
THE ONLY  
WAY!

WHA?P  
THERE'S  
NO WAY  
THAT'LL  
WORK.

SEKIEI!!  
I HAVE  
AN IDEA.

WITH ALL  
YOUR  
MIGHT,  
PLEASE!

OKAY, HERE  
GOES!

It's  
the  
idea

It's  
the  
idea

SEKIEI

SEKIEI MUST  
REALLY LOVE  
THEM...  
TEACHING  
OBEDIENCE!

THAT'S  
RIGHT.  
HE'S  
ALSO...

IN  
CONSIDER



# ROAR

ALL-RIGHTY  
THEN  
YOU'RE  
MINE!

YANG.

YIN.

PRESSURE  
!

UNREAL...

THE PROPORTIONAL  
FORCE THAT HE  
APPLIED IS HUGE...!

HARIKA  
KOKUYO  
!

ARE YOU  
GUYS  
ALL  
RIGHT?

!!!

IS ONLY  
ATTAINED  
WHEN YOU  
DISMISS  
YOUR OWN  
WEAKNESS.



KONUYOP

?

TRUE  
STRENGTH.

ALL I'VE  
BEEN  
DOING IS  
AVOIDING  
EVERY-  
THING.

THAT'S  
RIGHT...

CLICK

HELP?

I'LL USE  
THAT AS A  
STEPPING-  
STONE.

WAIT.  
WHAT ARE  
YOU...??

IF I CAN SEE MY OWN  
WEAKNESS  
WHILE FIGHTING...

MOVE  
FORWARD  
FROM  
HERE.

I MUST...



YIN

LET'S  
CONTRAST  
ATTACKING,  
SHALL WE?

YANG

PRESSURE  
!!!



WE'RE SO  
MUCH WEAKER  
THEN THEY  
ARE.

YEAH...

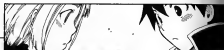
KONUYOP...



I KNOW YOU  
TWO CAN  
DO IT.

IT'LL  
BE ALL  
RIGHT.

It's gonna  
be



AAAAAAAAAAAA!



REACH  
!!!



!P

THEY'RE  
JUST IN THE  
WAY AND I  
CAN'T REACH  
THE TARGET.

WHAT  
EXACTLY ARE  
YOU  
TEACHING  
THESE  
KIDS?

KOKORO...  
HAKKA...

HEY'S  
GONE!



SENSEI?

TRY TO CONJURE UP  
THE IMAGE OF  
THE YIN AND  
YANG'S ENERGY  
EXTENDING THROUGH  
THE LENGTH  
OF YOUR SWORD.

THEN...  
WHAT  
DO WE  
DO?

HOW-  
EVER...

YOUR  
SWORD  
WILL NEVER  
REACH THE  
MONSTER'S  
CORE.

BUT THEN  
EXTENDING THE  
FORCE  
BEYOND THE  
SWORD.

IN ORDER TO  
KILL OFF THE  
EVIL SPIRIT WITH  
YOUR OBSIDIAN  
SWORD, WE HAVE  
TO DESTROY HIS  
"CORE" OR HIS  
CENTRAL ENERGY  
FORCE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THEY WERE ABLE TO SLICE THROUGH THE MONSTER'S CORE WITH THAT TOY OF A SWORD!

NO WAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THESE OBSCURE HYPRINTICES...

HAVE THIS MUCH POWER...

WAIT A SECOND...





GOSH...  
WHAT ARE  
YOU DOING?

I CAN'T BELIEVE  
HE DOESN'T  
GET TIRED  
OF CUTTING  
CLAWS EVERY-  
DAY.

I WONDER  
WHERE HE IS  
TODAY?

THAT'S  
AWESOME,  
BROTHER  
KOKUYO!!

OKAY,  
AGAIN!!

HERE  
AGAIN...

DID I  
SECRETLY  
EXTEND...

BUT  
SOME-  
THING  
IS  
WEIRD.

WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?

ARE YOU  
BEHIND  
THIS?

TOO MUCH  
POWER  
INTO THEM?

FROM.

HEL...

NICE  
GOING!



THEN QUIT  
CUTTING  
CLIPS!



SINCE YOUR  
DREAMS  
MIGHT  
NEVER COME  
TRUE...

I FEEL BAD  
FOR YOU...

HEREKOR, WHEN  
DID YOU GET  
HERE?

WHAT  
!?



THAT'S  
BECAUSE I'M  
GOING TO BE  
THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
SORCERER IN  
THE WORLD!



CHECK  
OUT MY  
SWORDS-  
MANSHIP!



WHAT AM  
I DO'G...

YOU  
KNOW...

I AM ON  
MY WAY TO  
BECOMING  
THE MOST  
POWERFUL  
SORCERER IN  
THE WORLD!



NOPE  
KIDNAP



CAN WE  
GET YOUR  
AUTOGRAPH  
PLEASE?





THE  
WORLD  
HOUSE'S  
SPECIAL  
POWERS  
CALLED  
THE YIN  
AND THE  
YANG.

THOSE WHO  
PROTECT US  
FROM EVIL  
SPIRITS...

SEKIEI MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL

USE  
BOTH THE  
POSITIVE  
AND  
NEGATIVE  
FORCES.

YANG.

YIN.

くか

SACRE



I'M BUSY  
STUDYING  
THE SLEEP  
TECH-  
NIQUES  
AND YOU...

WHY DID  
YOU DO  
THAT,  
SEKIEP?

A PUMPY  
WAKE-UP CALL,  
NOMADOP?

HEHEHE

WELL,  
HMM...

...DURING  
CLASS!

YOU MUST  
CALL ME  
SENSEI...

PLEASE,  
DON'T  
DESTROY WHAT  
MY FATHER  
CREATED!!

AAAA  
HHHH  
!!

HOW MANY  
TIMES DO I  
HAVE TO TELL  
YOU THAT?!

BOOOO

IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
KEEP THIS GIRL...

WE CALL  
THEM  
SORCER-  
ERS.

PRESSURE

AAAA  
HHHH  
!!!

SECOND PERIOD: GAME ON!

WHY DON'T  
YOU TWO GO  
TO THE HELL  
AND PRACTICE  
YOUR SKILLS?

I HAVE  
A MEETING  
WITH OTHER  
LEVEL-ONE  
SORCERERS  
THIS AFTER-  
NOON SO...

WHY DON'T  
WE TEST  
YOUR SKILLS  
AGAINST  
HARIKA'S  
TEAM?



THAT  
SEKEL...



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
TALKING  
ABOUT?



COURSE  
WORK DOESN'T  
MATTER  
WHEN  
YOU'RE  
FIGHTING...

AND HE'S  
NOT GOING  
TO LET ME  
TAKE THE  
EXAM JUST  
FOR THAT!



TAKE THE  
THIRD-LEVEL  
SORCERY  
EXAM...

THEN I HAVE  
NO CHOICE  
BUT TO ONLY  
LET HARIKA...



OH,  
REALLY?



NEVER MIND  
THE COURSE  
WORK...

MY SKILLS  
ARE AS  
GOOD AS  
HARIKA'S!



WHY? HARIKA  
ENROLLED HERE  
WAY AFTER  
ME?

AT THIS POINT,  
HARIKA IS  
MUCH MORE  
ADVANCED IN  
HER STUDIES  
THAN YOU.

THAT'S  
BOLDING SKILLS  
AND COURSE  
WORK.

HE'S  
FILLING  
FOR IT.





HSH, IT'S LIKE  
YOU'RE TELLING  
ME TO DUCK  
WITH THAT  
SINKING.



DOPS.



THAT'S  
EXACTLY  
RIGHT.

PRESSURE

GRIN



HUH?



YANG.

YIN.



URGH..

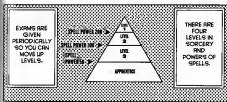
WHAT  
ARE YOU  
SAYING  
HTP

HEHE  
YOU  
NEEDED!













HOW WE  
GOT TO  
THIS POINT.

YEP, BUT WHO  
KNOWS IF YOU  
HAVE ENOUGH  
POWER TO  
EVEN SCARE A  
ROCK.

YOU'LL HAVE  
PLENTY OF  
SPACE TO  
WIELD YOUR  
SWORD IN  
THIS SCENE  
SPACE.

INTO  
PIECES.

GO REED  
AND...

I'LL MAKE  
SURE I GET  
UP YOUR  
THROAT-LEVEL  
PEACE.



WHY THE  
HECK DO YOU  
HAVE THIS  
HANDY?

HERE'S MY  
LETTER OF  
CHALLENGE  
!!



I REALLY  
DON'T  
GET...

HA, HA,  
YOU KNOW  
THAT'S NOT  
GOING TO  
REACH..

PLUNG

YAH!

YIN,

NOW  
!!

HEAT  
ON THE  
SWORD  
?

!?

YANG,

DID HE  
ADD  
PRESSURE  
TO HIS  
SWORD?!

YANG

YIN

QUICK

GIVE IT  
YOUR  
BEST  
SHOT!!

!!

THERE'S NO  
WAY I CAN  
KEEP UP EVEN  
IF I USE MY  
OBSEDIUM  
SWORD!

SHOOT.  
HE'S  
FAST!

I'M  
SURPRISED  
YOU GOT  
OUT OF THE  
WAY.

I HAVE TO  
FIND THE  
EXACT  
MOMENT  
TO ZAP  
HIM.

I HAVE TO  
USE MY  
SPELLS...











TO TURN  
INTO A  
SORCERER.

HE PURPOSELY  
ADOPTED AN  
OBSESSIVE  
Hobby...



HE'S NOT JUST  
STRANGE, HE'S  
STUPID.



WHA....



HEY,  
NODOMO  
!!

RUNNING  
AWAY, ARE  
WE?

I'M  
CUTTER  
HERE.

SORRY,  
THIS IS  
REALLY SO  
BILLY.

CLAM! CLAM!  
たたたた



YOU DO  
GO TO THE  
WORST  
CRIM  
SCHOOL  
EVER!

I GUESS  
YOUR TEACHER  
HASN'T TAUGHT  
YOU MUCH,  
BRY.



WHAT  
DID YOU  
JUST  
SAY?



NODOMO CAN  
FIGURE OUT WHAT  
YOUR TEACHER  
IS DOING OR  
THINKING.

EVERYONE  
TALKS ABOUT  
YOUR CRIM  
SCHOOL..



I DON'T  
KNOW HOW  
MAGNIFICENT  
YOUR TEACHER  
IS...

BUT YOU  
DON'T HAVE  
ANY RIGHT  
TO LOOK  
DOWN ON  
US.



LIM...



UH...

OKAY

THIS IS  
RIDICULOUS.

LET'S GO  
HOME.



CRACK



HARIKA-  
CHAN...

I'M USED TO  
HEARING GOSPEP  
ABOUT KOKUYO  
AND I, BUT...



ばん



MY BELOVED  
SCHOOL, AND  
GEKKO-  
SENSEI.

I WON'T  
STOP  
LISTENING  
TO YOU  
TRASH.



THAT  
JUST  
MEANS...

THAT YOU  
HAVE TO GET  
THAT MUCH  
STRONGER  
FROM HERE  
ON.



YOU CAN  
RETURN  
TO THE  
EXAMPLE I  
GAVE YOU  
EARLIER  
AND...

SO  
DURING  
THIS KIND  
OF  
BATTLE...



CAN I REALLY  
BECOME A  
SORCERER?

HEY,  
SENKEI.

.....



I'M AN  
OBSERVANT  
AND WORK.



SURE, YOU  
DEFINITELY ARE  
NOT STRONG  
YET.

KOMUO.



YOU HAVE  
TO CALL  
ME SENSEI  
DURING  
CLASS...

HOW MANY  
TIMES DO  
I HAVE TO  
TELL YOU?



WHY?

I HAVE NO  
STRENGTH...



DOES THIS  
MEAN...

I'M NOT  
MEANT TO  
BECOME A  
SORCERER?



HEY!  
KOKUYO!

KOKUYO.

...YO.



STRONGER?

I DEFINITELY  
WANT TO BE  
STRONGER...



MY  
POWER IS  
STILL...

BUT...



DO NOT  
FALL ASLEEP  
DURING  
CLASS!!

HEY,  
KOKUYO  
!!



SENSEI...

UH...



**THIRD PERIOD:  
ADVENTURE IN THE MOONLIGHT**





STOP THAT! HE'S SCARED.

YOU LITTLE...

WHICH MEANS I BECAME WEAK BECAUSE OF HIM?



LET HIM GO.

NONETHELESS, IT MEANS YOU NO HARM.

OH, ALL RIGHT.

INCLUDED



HMM...

USUALLY WHEN MOON BEETLES SUCK THE POWER FROM HUMANS, IT'S SO INSIGNIFICANT YOU SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO FEEL IT.

I WONDER WHAT'S GOING ON...



DON'T TRY THAT AGAIN, YOU HEAR?



HOW THE HELL DID YOU BRING IT BACK WITH YOU, KONGUYOP?

THESE MOON BEETLES LIVE ONLY NEAR THE MAGIC FOREST.



MOON BEETLE?

HUH?

THAT'S WHAT WAS STUCK TO KONGUYOP



ITS COLONY CENTERS AROUND THE QUEEN BEETLE. DURING THE TIME WHEN THE ULTIMATE LEADER, PRINCESS MAYIL IS IN HER DEVELOPMENT STAGE...

IT'S A TYPE OF BEETLE.

THE BEETLE SUCKS THE ENERGY AND POWER OUT OF HUMANS.

IT LOOKS CUTE UP CLOSE...









SO YOU  
HAD IT  
TOO...



NEKOME  
!?

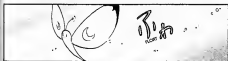
I GUESS YOU  
SAW THE SAME  
DREAM, HMP?



MY OH, MY,  
HARIKA!!  
YOU LOOK  
ESPECIALLY  
BEAUTIFUL IN  
THE MOON-  
LIGHT!!



HUH...?



YOU SURE  
THIS GUY  
MADE YOU  
DREAM THAT  
DREAM?

IT'S NOT A  
COINCIDENCE?

WILL YOU  
SHUT UP? YOU  
FOLLOWED ME  
HERE ON YOUR  
OWN AND NOW  
YOU'RE  
QUESTIONING  
ME?



WHAT TOOK  
YOU SO  
LONG,  
KOKORO?

I THINK IT  
GETS ROCKY  
UP AHEAD...



WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO? WE HAVE TO GO.



YEAH, BUT THEY'RE HEADED TOWARD THE EDGE OF TOWN AND INTO THE MAGIC FOREST.

DO THEY WANT US TO GO OVER THERE?



IF WE DON'T HELP THEM NOW, THEY MIGHT BE LOST FOREVER.

THEIR PRINCESS WAS THROWN OUT OF HER NEST BECAUSE OF US.



OH, WHATEVER! LET'S GO!

IF YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS, WHY ENJOY IN STUPID FIGHTS TO BEGIN WITH?



KOKORO...



THEY'RE FUN! I CAN'T FIND IT.



I WONDER IF IT WERE BLOWN AWAY FAR AWAY.

IN MY DREAM, THIS ROCK WAS BLOWN TO PIECES.

THAT COULD BE A PROBLEM...

P



!?

ヒョーン









NOW !!

JUST TRY AND EAT ME!

KEEP LURING HIM IN.

IN THE MEANTIME YOU GET THE PRINCESS.

I'LL DISTRACT THE LIZARD.

DON'T ORDER ME AROUND!

I KNOW!

ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS GET THE PRINCESS BACK!!

NICE! I'VE GOT IT!

THOMP

HEY! THIS WAY!!

STOMP

77







IT CAN'T BE...  
DIDN'T THEY  
REMOVE THEIR  
OBSIDIANS?

WHAT  
WAS THAT  
SPELL?P



AND THAT  
POWER!

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON...?P

THAT'S NOT  
A SPELL AN  
APPRENTICE  
CAN CAST...!!



HUH?

FROO...

MOON  
BEETLES?

JUST  
LIKE HER  
NAME, SHE  
LOOKS  
LIKE THE  
MOON.

IT'S THE  
BIRTH OF  
PRINCESS  
MYRL.

YOU TWO  
DIDN'T WAKE  
UP JUST IN  
TIME.

HUHP

IS IT  
MORNING  
ALREADY?

IT'S  
BRIGHT

!?

NO, TAKE  
A CLOSER  
LOOK.

THERE  
ARE TWO  
MOONS  
!?





THAT'S  
BEAUTIFUL...





WHY AM I  
RUNNING,  
TOOP?

YIN

YANG

RUN  
!



DID THAT  
POWERFUL  
FORCE COME  
FROM YOU?

NEKOME

YES.

OH  
NO!

YIN



SO IT WAS  
THEM...

UM...NO...

THAT  
WAS...



UM...



YOU GUYS  
AGAIN...

I FELT A  
STRONG  
FORCE, SO I  
THOUGHT IT  
WAS AN EVIL  
SPIRIT.

FATHER  
!!

SEKIEI  
!!



OH, NO,  
HARIKA!

I TOLD  
YOU TO  
CALL ME  
NEKOME...



THAT  
MEANS  
WE'RE...



AN ADMISSION  
CARD FOR THE  
THIRD-LEVEL  
SORCERY  
EXAM!?

THE EXAM,  
WHICH  
INCLUDES A  
PAPER TEST  
AND SKILLS  
TEST, IS  
EXACTLY...



NOW  
THERE'S NO  
TIME TO BE  
FOOLING  
AROUND.

YOUR  
APPLICATION  
HAS BEEN  
OFFICIALLY  
APPROVED.



ONE  
MONTH  
FROM  
TODAY!









FOURTH PERIOD: A PATH OF MY OWN



HEY, YOU,  
OBSESS!



KONGU! YOU I  
HEAR! YOU I  
WANT TO BE A  
SOMEBODY!

NEVER GONNA  
HAPPEN!

DON'T EVEN  
TRY IT!



THERE'S NO  
WAY YOU'RE  
GONNA GOING TO  
BEAT ME.



SHUCKS!



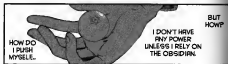
HAH...



OH...



YOU WERE  
STUDYING...



EXAM DAY





### THIRD-LEVEL SORCERER EXAMINATIONS EXAM ROOM





THIS IS  
WHERE THE  
SKILLS  
EXAM TAKES  
PLACE?



WHAT KIND  
OF SKILLS  
CAN BE  
TESTED IN  
SUCH A TINY  
SPACE?

IT'S  
GURU.

HOW  
BIG THE  
INSIDE  
ACTUALLY  
IS.



AND WHY IS  
IT ON THE  
EDGE OF  
TOWN?

WHAT  
SMALL  
BUILDING.



ONLY SIX  
PASSED THE  
WRITTEN  
EXAM.

INCLUDING  
OUR OWN  
THREE FROM  
TOWNS  
CRAM  
SCHOOL.

THAT'S  
GOOD.

AND...



AND THOSE  
TWO PASSED,  
TOO.















WE'LL BE LATE  
IF WE KEEP  
ATTACKING  
THEM ONE BY ONE.

LET'S  
DESTROY  
THEM ALL  
AT ONCE.



SO IT'S NO  
USE TO KEEP  
CHARGING THEM  
UNLESS IT'S LIKE  
TAKING ONE  
STEP FORWARD  
AND GOING TWO  
STEPS BACK.



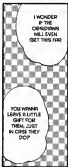
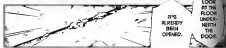
THEY'RE ONLY  
IN THIS CORNER,  
SO YOU WANT TO  
KEEP ATTACKING  
THEIR CORP?

NO, THAT  
WOULDN'T  
WORK.



PLEASE!!





...CALLED US  
HERE.

LET'S LET  
THEM REGRET  
THAT THEY  
EVER...

THAT THIS  
IS AN  
IMPORTANT  
COUNCIL.

YOU DO  
UNDER-  
STAND...

...

I WANT TO  
DO THIS  
OURSELF.



LET'S  
DO THE  
OTHER  
WIZ.

HIRIKOL

NEVER  
MIND  
THAT,  
LET'S  
HURRY

WHY AN  
EASY WORK  
TO FIGURE  
OUT...

IF WE TAKE  
THE SAME  
ROUTE AS  
THEM, THEN  
WE'LL NEVER  
CATCH UP

BUT THE  
COMPASS  
IS POINTING  
THIS WAY...

WHAT  
!?

ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?

WE HAVE  
A CHANCE  
TO CATCH  
UP

IF THINGS  
GO  
WELL ON  
ANOTHER  
ROUTE...





...OUR OWN  
PATH!



TAKING THE  
SAME ROUTE  
CAN'T BE THE  
ONLY SOLUTION.



THERE MUST BE...



BECAUSE  
THIS IS SO  
IMPORTANT.

EXAM HEADQUARTERS

YOUR THREE  
BOYS ARE  
DOING WELL,  
TORRE!

ONE  
BOY  
GAVE  
UP!

THEY'RE  
ALMOST  
AT THE  
END.

HOW  
ARE  
MY TWO  
DOGS?

UM,  
LET'S  
SEE...

THOSE  
TWO  
ARE...

WELL, OF  
COURSE!

HUH?

GRAB

WHAT THE...

WHAT'S  
GOING  
ON!?

WHAT  
!?

IT'S...  
SM...

BUT...

THE  
COMPASS  
MOVED!!

IT'S POINTING  
IN AN ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT  
DIRECTION.

BUT BOTH OUR  
COMPASSES  
ARE POINTING  
THAT WAY.

WHAT'S  
THAT  
HOLE?

DOESN'T  
SEEM LIKE  
A DOOR.

SCORE!  
A SHORT-  
CUT!

YOUR SORRY  
SENSE OF  
DIRECTION  
MUST HAVE  
AFFECTED OUR  
COMPASS.

WHAT!?  
THEN  
SHOW ME  
YOURS.

HEY...

**FIFTH PERIOD: THE PLEDGE AND MOVING ON**



THEY'VE  
DROPPED OFF  
THE RIDGE?

WIRE.

WHAT'S  
THAT  
SOUND?











IT'S A DOOR!!

LOOK THERE!



SO THERE'S ANOTHER ROUTE UNDERNEATH, HUH?



IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE WE CAN CLIMB BACK UP EITHER.



DUCK!

DIDN'T EXPECT THAT GASPING HOLE.



IT'S GETTING STRONGER

THE COMPASS IS...

HUH?!



THE SOUND IS MUCH CLOSER TO US NOW.



WHAT?

HEX...!



NICE! SO LET'S JUST FOLLOW THE ARROW...

THE COMPASS IS REALLY MOVING NOW!



THIS IS  
PART  
OF THE  
EXAM/?



CHỢC  
THÉN.









OBSIDIAN...

HE'S AN...



MY SPELL  
ISN'T  
STRONG  
ENOUGH.

ARGH...



YANG.

AMP?



KOKUYO !!

I CAN'T  
BELIEVE ALL  
I CAN DO IS  
SIT HERE AND  
WATCH ALL  
THIS!!

I CAN'T  
ATTACK THE  
MONSTER  
WITHOUT MY  
OBSIDIAN.

L

BUT...

THIS MONSTER...

SURE IS  
STRONG.

LOOKING  
FOR ME?

...SEKIEL WHO RESCUED ME AS AN ORPHAN EVEN THOUGH I WAS AN OBSESSIVE, AND FOR HARIKA, WHOM I'VE KNOWN SINCE WE WERE KIDS.

AND...

FOR MYSELF,  
SO I CAN BE  
PROUD OF  
ME.

I'M DOING  
THIS FOR...



I AM GOING  
TO BE THE  
WORLD'S BEST  
SORCERER!!





USE THE  
SPELL YOU  
USED TO  
DEFLECT THE  
LIZARD.

THAT  
SHOULD  
WORK.



BUT I CAN  
GIVE YOU  
SOME  
ADVICE.

I JUST CAME  
AROUND  
TO CHECK  
THINGS OUT.



I'VE BEEN  
THINKING  
ABOUT  
WHAT  
SPELLS  
YOU TWO  
CAN USE.

WITHOUT  
YOUR  
OBSERVING.



ABOUT  
WHAT  
HAPPENED  
THEN.

BUT WE  
DON'T  
REMEM-  
BER ANY-  
THING.

DID WE  
REALLY  
KILL THE  
LIZARD?



HUH?



WHAT  
ARE YOU  
WAITING  
FOR?



SHOOT, NOW  
I'M UNARMED.

NOW  
WHAT?



NERD! WHAT THE  
HECK ARE  
YOU.

WAIT,  
WATCH  
OUT!



DON'T WORRY  
ABOUT ME, I'VE  
GOT IT COVERED  
AROUND AS  
THAT BLOCKS  
ALL SOUND.



JUST USE  
YOUR  
SPELLS.



THE  
MONSTER  
IS  
SWIMMING  
AT ANY-  
THING NOW.

JUST DO AS I  
SAY.



THIS IS  
HOW YOU  
FEEL WITH  
THE GNARD.  
NO, IT'S  
STRONGER  
THAN THAT.

WHAT  
INTENSE  
POWER!!

IT'S...

WE HAVE TO  
ENVISION  
OUR POWERS  
TOGETHER  
FIRST.

OH I  
KNOW.

YOU GUYS  
WILL BE ALL  
RIGHT.

DON'T  
WORRY.

WE  
CAN  
DO  
IT!!

AS OUR HANDS  
JOIN TOGETHER...

SO WILL OUR  
POWERS...

THIS IS  
OUR  
POWER  
!!

WE  
CAN  
DO IT  
!!

RIGHT  
ON!

YANG.

YIN.

KIKUKUYO





HAD NO IDEA



OBSEDIANS ARE SO STRONG.



WHY A SECOND?



WE HAVE  
POWER  
WITHOUT  
OUR  
OBSEDIANS.

IT'S  
POWER  
FROM  
WITHIN  
US!!



THIS ISN'T  
THE THIRD-  
LEVEL  
MEDALLION.

IT'S THE  
FIRST-LEVEL  
MEDALLION.



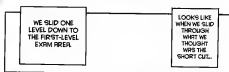
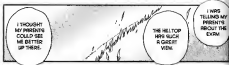
HARIKA AND  
I ENDED UP  
PASSING  
THE THIRD-  
LEVEL EXAM.

SO AFTER  
EVERY-  
THING  
WAS  
EXPLAINED



TIME'S  
ALMOST UP









...LIVE  
WITH  
THAT.

**OBSIDIAN MAGIC CRAM SCHOOL:  
THE END**



I PROMISED  
THAT WE'D  
BOTH BECOME  
THE BEST.



OH I  
GUESS...



I COULD...

# AFTERWORD

NICE TO MEET YOU, I'M SUZUME! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR PURCHASING *AKAGI-DAMA: MAGIC GRAM SCHOOL*. IT IS MUCH APPRECIATED! I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO DELIVER THIS BOOK TO YOU SAFELY. I SEND MY TRUE GRATITUDE AND THANKS TO ALL THOSE THAT HELPED ME WITH THIS BOOK, TO THOSE WHO ENCOURAGED ME, AND TO THOSE WHO READ THE STORY.

ORIGINALLY, *MAGIC GRAM SCHOOL* WAS SUPPOSED TO BE WRITTEN IN SHORT MANGA FORM. HOWEVER, AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, MY EDITORS ASKED ME TO TURN IT INTO SOMETHING A BIT LONGER, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, IT WAS PUBLISHED AS A SHORT SERIES. I KNEW IT WOULD BE A CHALLENGE BUT WHAT THE HECK? I SEEM TO HAVE JUST MADE IT TO THE FINISH LINE. THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER WRITTEN A SERIES. (AND OF COURSE I DID TWO AT ONCE, I FEEL SO RECKLESS!) I CERTAINLY HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH OVER THE PAST FIVE MONTHS.

I HOPE I WAS ABLE TO GROW EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT—  
LIKE KOKUYO AND HARIKA.

I STILL HAVE SO MUCH TO LEARN FROM HERE ON OUT SO  
I HOPE I DON'T GET TOO LAZY (LAUGH). I WANT TO KEEP  
MOVING FORWARD!

THANKS TO EVERYONE AGAIN!

2005.12 伊藤 敦  
(ITOH DUN)



## Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

### HARIDAMA

The title of this manga, *Haridama*, has no literal translation. But in the context of the story, a *haridama* is a small ball made of obsidian.



### OBSIDIAN, page 1

Obsidian is a dark-colored natural glass that is formed by the cooling of molten lava. In this story, the word indicates the small glass ball that fits on top of Kokoro and Hanka's swords, but it can also be used to describe the kind of sorcerer who needs an obsidian ball in order to cast spells.



### YIN AND YANG, page 3

This story borrows these two important concepts from Eastern philosophy. In essence, yin and yang together represent all the forces found in all the objects in the universe, which are both perfectly opposite and complementary. Yin tends to describe the darker elements (such as night), while yang describes the lighter elements (such as day).

## About the Creator



Hi! I'm a manga artist. I'm also an illustrator. I've been drawing since I was in kindergarten, but the first time I picked up a manga pen was in the fourth grade. The manga artists who inspire me are Akira Toriyama and Masamune Inomata.

People like to ask me what tools I use, but I'm pretty analog when it comes to drawing manga. I use G pens, maru pens, and pilot ink. But when it comes to color illustrations, I go digital. I scan the inked illustrations and use Painter7 to color them.

I still work hard every day to get better as an artist. There are so many things I can't draw!

### Things I like:

Pictures, music, clothes, hats, walking, and the charming sights of the four seasons. Profiles. One-piece dresses. Winter—I love putting my scarf on! Cats. Glasses (black-rimmed ones are the best!). Dandy middle-aged men and old men characters. Live music (punk, rock, etc.). Café Ole. Cute packaging and make-up. Elegant cafes and coffee houses.

伊藤 敦

ITOH DUN

## **CRAM SCHOOL, page 3**

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In Japan, a cram school is a privately run organization that runs after-school study programs for students (from elementary to high school) who want to do well on the Japanese school system's tough entrance exams. Cram schools cover every subject that regular schools teach. In the context of this story, magic cram schools prep their students to pass the strict and somewhat dangerous sorcery exams!



## **NEKOME, page 5**

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Nekome's name literally means "cat eyes." Nekome is the son of a sorcerer who runs the Toriwa (which translates to "tiger eyes") Cram School.



## **LETTER OF CHALLENGE, page 84**

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A letter of challenge is passed on to someone who wants to fight another or invite another to a duel to settle a score.